



SKILLS CHALLENGE + WELDING RODEO

AT BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MAY 16 & 17, 2014
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

THEME: THE 4 ELEMENTS
www.btc.ctc.edu

Press Release

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Bellingham, Washington – April 11, 2014 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) holds its annual **Welding Rodeo** and **Skills Challenge** on the BTC campus on May 16 and 17, 2014 (Friday and Saturday).

This is the second year that BTC has featured a *skills-challenge* portion of this event and it is enhanced by BTC's welding program having recently received the new accreditation status of a certified test facility by the American Welding Society (AWS). BTC is the second school in Washington State and the only college in Northwest Washington with this type of accreditation. This endorsement allows BTC to perform many different types of welding certifications above and beyond that of Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO). BTC is teaching manufacturing skills to students to industry standards which is an added benefit to BTC's students.

Real Time Welded Sculpture Competition: Theme: *The Four Elements: Earth, Air, Fire, Water* & new Skills Competition

Join in the fun, flare and sparks as each team strategizes, designs, fabricates and welds a finished sculpture in two days. Get a rare glimpse into the real time world of welded steel fabrication and fine art creation. Eight Professional level teams, including a team from Denmark, competing over a two-day period.

A horn blast signals the start of the competition. Each team makes a mad dash to the donated scrap metal piles to select the prime pieces of steel for each sculpture—it is every Team for themselves! All of our competitors are trained Welder/Fabricators, including exhibiting artists and professionals that work in the trade and also have a love for sculpture and fine art. This year, artists are encouraged to produce finished sculptures with special emphasis on high finished quality and sized within the limitations of less than 10' in height.

A mix of professional and college teams from Washington State have been invited to come to create welded sculpture from scrap-metal to finished art work in 16 hours. There is a 30 minute timed lunch break on both days and then everyone dashes back to finesse their creations.

At the end of the competition on Saturday, at 5PM, all sculptures will be sold in a live auction, to benefit scholarships to welding students at BTC and statewide.

The public is invited to attend this free, one-of-a-kind event Friday and Saturday, 8-5.

New -- Skills Challenge: Open to All

Welders of all ages and skill levels are invited to compete in BTC's *Welding Skills Challenge* at the 2014 Welding Rodeo, May 16th & 17th at Bellingham Technical College. Prizes will be awarded for each level on both days of the competition.

Welders will be tested on basic to advanced cutting & welding techniques and can choose the skills on which to be evaluated. Competencies will be judged by Certified Welding Inspectors. The format is based on the SkillsUSA Model. Official rules and competency expectations for the inaugural challenge will be posted at the event.

High school students can perform one free skill then its \$5 for each additional skill, \$10 per skill for college students, and \$15 per skill for professionals (non-students). More information, including a list of the competency tests, can be found on the registration website. Event day registration will be cash or check only, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Online pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please go to www.weldingrodeo.eventbrite.com for more information and to register.

Other event offerings:

- Our **American Welding Society Student Chapter (AWSC)** sells smaller unique specialty welded items for the home and garden. These sales benefit the BTC student chapter and help send them to welding technology conferences and competitions.
- **Public Hands-On Welding Booth:** If you have always wanted to try your hand at welding this is your chance. An experienced student welder will guide you through the actual process of creating your own weld and you get to keep it! All protective gear is provided. Free!!
- **BTC Program Information Booths** – Various Programs and the College Admissions & Foundation from BTC will have information for prospective students.
- **Industry Representatives** will be on hand to advertise professional opportunities in their industries
- **BBQ** by Instrumentation and Control department: are selling Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. All funds will support student club activities.
- **Raffles:** Pre-made welding items, professional welding gear, art and more. All are up for grabs for only a \$1 per ticket. All funds go towards scholarships.

Proceeds Support BTC's Welding Program and Student Scholarships

All finished sculptures will be auctioned Saturday afternoon between 5-5:30pm.

Cash and Prizes will be awarded to the top teams and auction funds will be used to support BTC's Welding Program for competitions and Student Scholarships.

Open to Public and Free

Everyone is invited, with many people spending the entire day watching the sculptures come together.

Dates: Friday, May 16, 8 am to 5 pm and Saturday, May 17, 8 am to 5:30 pm

Specifics about Art and Teams:

- Teams have four members and there are 8 teams
- Each team gets their own work station (20' x 20')

- Each team has 16 hours over two days to build and complete their sculpture. All sculptures must be in a finished state, ready to be installed, with a base and fixture accommodations.
- Size limit: 10' height limit
- All of the scrap metal is donated from local business.

Judging for Welded Sculpture:

A panel of recognized professionals from the field will judge each piece for quality and aesthetics.

Prizes: \$2,500 for 1st place, \$2,000 for 2nd place, \$1,600 for 3rd place and Presidents Choice \$600, \$400 for People's Choice.

How the Welding Rodeo Came about:

It began with the instructor's idea to generate emphasis and interest about the welding field, BTC's welding program, and the BTC campus. It quickly became clear that the public was curious and had the demand to see "what goes on under the hood", a firsthand look at the process that most of us never have the opportunity to see up close. This idea was a mix of a Welding Skills demonstration and competition, a welding product & equipment showcase, and a take-off of "Junk Yard Wars" into metal sculpture with a twist; all this evolving into —The BTC Welding Rodeo – now in its 13th year.

About Bellingham Technical College:

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 37 associate degree and 51 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.ctc.edu